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# CERTAIN CONSIDERATIONS AND *Johnson.* CAUTIONS

Agreed upon by the *Ministers of*  
**LONDON and WESTMINSTER**, and within  
the Lines of Communication at  
**SYON COLLEDGE,**  
June 19. 1646.

According to which they Resolve to put the *Pres-*  
*byterian-Government* into Execution upon the Ord-  
nances of *Parliament* heretofore published.



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*Published according to Order.*

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**V**THE Ministers of Christ residing within the Cities of *London* and *Westminster*, and Lines of Communication, Having seen and read an Order of the Honourable House of Commons, assembled in *Parliament*, bearing date June 9. 1646. requiring and enjoyning all the Ministers of the Province of *London* forthwith to put in Execution the Ordinances concerning *Church-Government*: hold it re-

quisite, humbly and faithfully as in the sight of God, to shew our Judgements and Resolutions about this Weightie matter, for the clearing of our Integrities, and preserving of our Consciences, void of offence both towards God and towards men.

We have seriously pondered the present state of things, and find our selves whether we Act, as is required, or Act not, to be in a very great Straight. On the one hand, *Prelacy being justly pull'd down*, and the Church miserably groaning under disorder and confusion; many things cry aloud upon us in our places to put Church-Government into Actuall Execution; *The Glory of God, the Edification of his Church, the duty of our Function, the Engagement of our Solemne Covenant with God, the Command of the Civill Magistrate*, which so far as we can with a good Conscience we are resolved, and hold it our duty to obey, and the present unspeakable miseries of the Church, by *woſall Divisions, Blasphemies, Heresies, Abhominable loſenesſe, Libertinisme, and Atheisme*, and the spirituall Ruine of many Congregations, through false Teachers, or want of faithfull Pastors for lack of Ordination. On the other hand, upon consideration of all the *Ordinances of Parliament* about Church-Government, We finde many Necessarie things not yet established, and some things wherein our Consciences are not so fully satisfied. And therefore in our beginning to Act, we cannot but foresee how likely we are to be sinisterly Interpreted by many who are prone to misconstrue all our Actions of this Nature. We thereupon hold it necessarie to expresse upon what grounds we may proceed to Act upon the *Ordinances* already established by Authority.

Although

Although we conceive the power of *Church Censures*, and in particular the keeping of Ignorant and Scandalous persons from the Sacrament of the Lords Supper, to be in *Church-officers by the will and Appointment of Jesus Christ, and from Him, they receive their Office and Authority*, Yet we acknowledge it belongs to the Magistrate to have his Conscience satisfied in the Truth of that Government of the Church which he will set up by his Authority, from whom the Church-Officers do receive Authority of the publick Exercise of their Offices within his Dominions. And in case the Magistrate be not so fully informed as to set up a right and perfect Rule in every particular, the Church-Officers may yet Act under that Rule; provided that they do not Subscribe to, or otherwise acknowledge that Rule to be entire and right in all points. And therefore for these particular Ordinances, although we humbly conceive, that they do not hold forth a Compleat Rule, nor are in all points satisfactory to our Consciences: Yet because we find *many things established in them agreeable to the word of God, for which we desire heartily to blesse God, and to be Thankful to the Honourable Houses*; Provision being made for enabling the Elderships by their Authoritie to keep away from the Lords Supper all Ignorant persons, and many Scandalous persons, with a Declaration of their Resolution, that *All Notorious and Scandalous Offenders shall be kept from the Sacrament*, and that there shall be a further Addition to the Scandalous offences formerly enumerated; We conceive it is our dutie to begin to Act, in reference to Church-Government, by Congregationall, Classicall, Provinciall, and Nationall Assemblies.

Affsemblies. Resolving by Gods grace to walk in all things according to the Rule of the Word, and according to these Ordinances so far as we conceive them correspondent to it; and to be countable to the Magistrate whenever he shall call us thereunto. Hoping so to carry ourselves as not onely to enjoy his Concurrence with us on all occasions: but also that he will supply what is lacking to make the Government entire, and likewise make Alterations in all things that shall appear to be amisse. *And in thus doing, we trust we shall not grieve the spirits of the truly Godly, either at home or abroad, nor give any just occasion to them that are contrary minded to blame our proceedings.*

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FINIS.

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